

Abstract

The present invention is directed towards a test case inheritance behavior that can be controlled via attributes. A base test class from which test objects are derived are useful for reducing test case code and management. For example, base test classes and their derived objects can be used to implement steps that are common between the entire set of classes (e.g., launching a piece of software to be tested and getting it to a certain stage). The principle of inheritance simplifies management of the test software when, for example, the base class is modified, all of the tests which derive from that test case automatically are modified. Accordingly, only one item needs to be modified (instead of every tests) when a change is necessary to modify the way the software launches.

